Application No.: 09/750,416 Docket No.: X2007.0072

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 7-15 stand rejected. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claim 16. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8-15 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 2, 4, 5, and 7 have been amended. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of this case, claims 1 and 8-15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Further, claims 2, 4, 5, and 7 now depend from allowable claim 16. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Application No.: 09/750,416 Docket No.: X2007.0072

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: December 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted

By____

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorneys for Applicant

IRB/mgs